

Joint Statement on the cooperation between the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

13 November 2009

On behalf of the Chairmen of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) dealing with the issue of terrorism. I would like to give an update on the continued cooperation among the Committees and their expert groups.

During the last six months the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee (1267 Committee), the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee and their respective expert groups have increased cooperation as requested by the Security Council in recent resolutions pertaining to the three Committees, notably in resolutions 1805 (2008), 1810 (2008) and 1822 (2008).

The three Committees attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation among their expert groups, namely the Monitoring Team, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the 1540 Committee Experts. The Committees welcome the continuing efforts of the expert groups to develop common strategies on areas of common concern, to organize joint workshops, to coordinate their participation in conferences and joint country visits, and to exchange information on their activities. The Committees encourage their expert groups to further enhance their exchange of information and coordination with regard to capacity building, assistance requests and delivery of technical assistance activities. In this context, I would also like to recall that the cooperation and coordination would be facilitated by the co-location of the experts in the framework of the Capital Master Plan.

The three expert groups continued to implement the common strategy on dealing with non- or late-reporting States through exchange of information and joint visits, when appropriate, and in assisting Member States in submitting their responses to the three Committees on their implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Under that strategy, the three expert groups have jointly participated in two workshops organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/Terrorism Prevention Branch. One of these was a workshop for 11 States from the Middle East region and the other was for 13 States from the Caribbean and Latin American region. An expert from CTED participated in the UNODA-organized regional workshop on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for Central American States held in Costa Rica from 8 to 10 September. These workshops continue to provide an excellent opportunity for the three expert groups to assist in the understanding by Member States of the differing but complimentary roles and mandates of the three Committees.

The expert groups have continued cooperating on issues regarding the implementation of relevant resolutions by States of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). Experts from CTED and the 1540 Experts attended the Sub-regional Workshop on Counter-Terrorism, Legislative Initiatives and International Cooperation in Suva, Fiji, from 1 to 2 June 2009, and the annual Pacific Regional Counter-Terrorism Working Group (CTWG) held also in Suva on 3 June 2009.

In addition to these workshops, the three expert groups are exploring the use of common video conferences. The Committees believe that such workshops and interactive discussions with

officials from capitals are very important tools to enhance the dialogue with the Member States, to help improve the understanding of the distinct though connected mandates of the three Committees, and to assist Member States in the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

After presenting the common strategy to engage with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, entities and agencies, which is still under consideration, the Monitoring Team, CTED and the 1540 Committee Experts continue to work on a common approach towards relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

The expert groups continue to coordinate their visits to Member States, explore whether these could be conducted jointly, and coordinate their participation at relevant conferences. When an expert group does not participate in a visit, they exchange information on the Member State that is to be visited. In addition, the three expert groups also share their reports on their visits, whenever possible. Since the last joint meeting, Monitoring Team members have participated in one CTC visit, which was their fifteenth joint trip.

The three expert groups also continue to contribute to and coordinate their work within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), which was established to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the UN system and to help implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The expert groups contribute to the work of several CTITF Working Groups, and the Monitoring Team and CTED have assumed leading functions.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, there are regular meetings of the expert groups in New York. Moreover, when CTC organizes briefings in the framework of its official meetings, the Monitoring Team and the 1540 Committee Experts are also invited to participate. The Chairmen of 1267 and 1540 Committees, the Executive Director of CTED, the Coordinator of the Monitoring Team and members of the 1540 Committee expert group attended the VIII Meeting of the Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law Enforcement Organization to discuss counter-terrorism matters in Irkutsk, the Russian Federation, from 23 to 25 June 2009. The Chairmen of CTC and the 1267 Committee, as well as their expert groups, participated in the open meeting of the 1540 Committee for Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), organized by the 1540 Committee together with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs at the UN headquarters from 30 September to 2 October 2009. The three Chairmen and respective expert groups also jointly participated in the International Workshop of National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points on “Better linking national and global counter-terrorism efforts” that took place in Vienna, Austria from 12-13 October 2009. As more than hundred representatives from Member States were present at this workshop, the participation of the three Chairmen was a useful opportunity to raise awareness about the mandates and current activities of the three Committees.

On the occasion of previous briefings, a comparative table was issued to highlight the main aspects of the respective mandates and areas of competence of the three Committees and of their expert groups. That table has served as a useful tool for Member States, as it has helped them better to understand the specificities and complementarities of our work. The updated table has been posted on our respective websites and will be distributed today.

Terrorism and WMD proliferation to non-state actors continue to be a threat to international peace and security. Cooperation is a crucial element in the efforts to counter the threat of terrorism, including that from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons for terrorist purposes. The three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council and their respective expert groups are committed to continue to cooperate and to coordinate their work, within their respective mandates, in order to contribute to an effective and efficient approach within the overall UN framework, and within the broader efforts of the international community. In this respect, the Committees look forward to receiving further guidance from the Council on areas of common interest in order better to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts.